

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-05 COME-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10

EUR-12 NEA-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

OIC-02 /131 W

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R 131730Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2879

INFO USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS GENEVA 3490

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCOM WMO

SUBJ: 7TH WMO CONGRESS: MID-POINT REPORT

SUMMARY: CONGRESS VII IS AT HALF WAY POINT. COMMITTEE WORK ON LARGE NUMBER OF ITEMS FORESHADOWS EVENTUAL OUTCOME. HOWEVER, FINAL DECISIONS YET TO BE TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

1. ELECTIONS: INCUMBENT WMO PRESIDENT, M.F. TAHA, (EGYPT) WILL BE UNOPPOSED FOR PRESIDENCY AND LIKELY ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION. BUREAU EXPECTED TO BE COMPOSED OF NAVA I (IRAN) FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT; IZRAEL (USSR) SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT; ECHEVESTE (ARGENTINA) THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT. UNSATISFACTORY BUREAU SLATE WITH NO WESTERN MEMBER, BUT BLOC POLITICS PREVAILED. NAVA I CANDIDACY FOR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT UNEXPECTED LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN LIGHT OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT SOLICITATION SECOND VICE-PRESIDENCY. MASON (U.K.) WITHDREW CANDIDACY AS PRE-AGREED. ONLY SECOND VICE-PRESIDENCY BEING CONTESTED. HOWEVER, KINTANAR (PHILIPPINES) EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW, RESULTING IN UNOPPOSED SLATE. KINTANAR WITHDRAWAL INTENDED TO INSURE SEAT FOR GIBBS (AUSTRALIA) ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: ANTICIPATE PASSAGE OF CONVENTION CHANGE
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SO AS TO INCREASE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO 27 FROM 24 SEATS. U.S.

WILL ACCEPT INCREASE, IN SPITE OF OUR OPPOSITION IN COMMITTEE, SO AS TO MAXIMIZE CHANCES FOR ADEQUATE WESTERN REPRESENTATION ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THIRTY-ONE CANDIDATES ARE STANDING FOR 27 SEATS OF WHICH 17 ARE ELECTIVE. POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR REDUCTION IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEATS FOR WESTERN AND ADVANCED WEATHER SERVICE MEMBERS. OUR CONCERNS EXPRESSED TO PRESIDENT AND TO OTHER DELEGATIONS. ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, 16 MAY.

3. BUDGET: SUBCOMMITTEE ON BUDGET APPOINTED WITH DIRECTIVE TO FORMULATE BUDGET AT DOLS 40 MILLION LEVEL. WORK IN MID-STREAM. WE ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTY IN HOLDING TO THIS LEVEL BUT SENTIMENT FOR MODERATE BUDGET EXTENDS BEYOND MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS AT THIS POINT.

4. TECHNICAL PROGRAM: DISCUSSIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF PROGRAM PROCEEDING IN MANNER SATISFACTORY TO U.S. U.S. VIEWS ON WORLD WEATHER WATCH, GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROJECT, WEATHER MODIFICATION AND OCEAN AFFAIRS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE LEVEL.

5. VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: INDORSED BY ALL. SENTIMENT ALONG LINES U.S. VIEWS TO RESTRICT PROGRAM TO WORLD WEATHER WATCH RATHER THAN EXPAND TO SEVERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. MODIFICATIONS ALONG LINES U.S. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE SHORT TERM TRAINING AND APPLICATIONS TO HYDROLOGY ACCEPTED.

6. CONVENTION CHANGES: MAJOR U.S. OBJECTIVE TO REVISE CONVENTION TO PROVIDE FOR OPERATIONAL HYDROLOGY FAVORABLY RECEIVED. CONFERENCE ENCOUNTERING UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, ON GENERAL REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO DEFINITION OF TERMS "DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES," WHICH COULD WEAKEN INTENT OF CONVENTION CHANGES.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA03490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750168-0853
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750558/aaaacamj.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 7TH WMO CONGRESS: MID-POINT REPORT SUMMARY: CONGRESS VII IS AT HALF WAY POINT. COMMITTEE WORK ON
TAGS: OCON, WMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006